

THE COUNCIL FOR TOBACCO RESEARCH-U.S.A.

October 26, 1966

MEMORANDUM

TO: CCL

FROM: JRS

SUBJECT: The 39th Scientific Session of the American Heart Association, New York City, October 21-28, 1966. Also the American Society for the Study of Arteriosclerosis and the Council on Arteriosclerosis of the American Heart Association, October 19-20, 1966.

The paper by CTR Grantee Jack Strong, "Relationship between Cigarette Smoking Habits and Coronary Atherosclerosis in Autopsied Males," was the only story of the meeting picked up by The New York Times on Friday, the 21st. This paper pointed out the 'association' of cigarette smoking and higher incidence of atherosclerosis in the heavy smoker. Dr. Strong concluded that smoking per se, was not a major cause of atherosclerosis but that smoking, plus some unknown factor could be, or well may be, the cause of increased incidence of atherosclerosis in the smoker. Dr. Engelberg asked if the number of patients studied were statistically significant. Strong's reply: "The numbers are fairly small and are questionably significant." The report in The New York Times inferred that Strong had stated a direct causal relationship. No mention was made of the influence of nutrition in this study. Myra Richards reported that they were still working over this material and indicated that there appeared to be a high correlation between poor nutrition and atherosclerosis.

Dr. E. McGill reporting on the "Geographical Pathology of Atherosclerosis," an international study of 17 countries still in progress. -- It appears that these specimens are collected from the lowest socio-economic group of the participating countries. A written report is due in the literature in a few months. Dr. McGill has been appointed to the staff of the new medical school under construction in San Antonio, Texas.

A paper on "Coronary Artery Disease in Migratory Steelhead Trout" was read by Dr. Van Citters of Seattle. The pathology consists of intraluminal proliferations containing intimal tissue and fragmented internal elastic membranes. These changes are thought to be due to hyperadrenocorticism as an accompanying part of sexual maturation. This change in the salmon results in death of the fish after spawning. The steelhead trout has the same changes occur while in fresh water. However, the steelhead may return to salt water once or twice during the life span - the arterial changes completely reverse after returning to salt water. There is no sex difference. The salmon has no lipid or fat of any kind in the blood stream. Major interest is the degeneration of the arterial wall resulting from accelerated adrenocortical activity.

Dr. Siperstein of Dallas, presented new material on the thickening of the basement membrane of the capillary. While all capillaries show this change, the specimens for the study were all taken by needle biopsy from the gastrocnemius muscle. This change was noted in all diabetics and pre-diabetics. In addition to the usefulness of this technique in diagnosis, this paper fit into a number of other papers involving variants in carbohydrate metabolism as a basic precursor to degenerative vascular disease. If this capillary change is uniformly demonstrated, then perhaps the vaso vasorum of the great vessels are the forerunner of degenerative disease of the aorta.

J. Morrison Brady
J. Morrison Brady, M.D.

1003546884